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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Feng Anne Xie, et al

For: RUBBER COMPOSITION

CONTAINING RESINOUS

NANOPARTICLE

Serial No.: 10/823,256

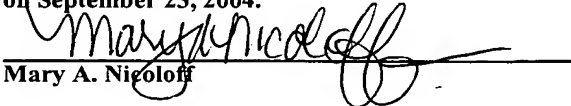
Filed: April 13, 2004

) Docket No. DN2004-067

) Art Unit: 1711

) Examiner:

) I hereby certify that this correspondence is being  
) deposited with the United States Postal Service as first  
) class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner  
) for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,  
) on September 23, 2004.

)   
) Mary A. Nicoloff

Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE IN COMPLIANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. §1.98**

As a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the Applicants are calling the following to the attention of the Patent Office and request that they be considered by the Examiner:

United States Patent 6,469,101

United States Patent 6,127,488

Japanese Patent 2002080642

However, the above-listed references may not be prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102 and this document should not be construed as an admission that any of the above-listed references are prior art within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102.

United States Patent 6,469,101 may be relevant to the prosecution of the subject patent application because it discloses a vulcanizable rubber composition comprising (a) cross-linkable unsaturated chain polymeric base, and (b) from 2 to 30 parts by weight of the polymeric base of at least one polymeric organic compound solid at room temperature and having a glass transition temperature of from 80 to 160°C and an average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 1,000,000, said polymeric organic compound being substantially insoluble in said polymeric base, wherein the rubber composition has, once vulcanized, a first hysteretic behavior at a first working temperature of a tire having a tread made of the composition and a second hysteretic behavior, which differs from the first hysteretic

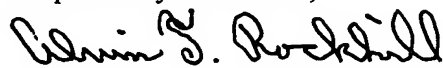
behavior, at a second working temperature of the tire. The benefits of the incorporation of these organic substances are improved low rolling resistance at 40-70°C and a high hysteresis loss above 70°C.

United States Patent 6,127,488 may be relevant to the prosecution of the subject patent application because it discloses that rubber mixtures ~~prepared from at least one~~ styrene/butadiene rubber gel and at least one rubber which contains double bonds and optionally further fillers and rubber auxiliary substances ~~are in particular suitable for the~~ preparation of vulcanizates having unusually high damping at temperatures of from -20 to +20°C as well as unusually low damping at temperatures of from 40 to 80°C.

Japanese Patent 2002080642 may be relevant to the prosecution of the subject patent application because it discloses the inclusion of uncrosslinked or crosslinked polyacrylate or polymethyl methacrylate particles with a mean particle diameter of 1-200 micrometers in tread rubber compositions. The benefits touted as being obtained are improved wet traction, better wear resistance and low heat buildup, without degrading dry traction. Japanese Patent No. 2002080642 also discloses that particles smaller than 1 micrometer are insufficient to reduce hysteresis loss.


Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the Abstract of the Japanese Patent are enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



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<b>FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)  	<b>ATTY DOCKET NO.</b> DN2004-067	<b>SERIAL NO.</b> 10/823,256
	<b>APPLICANT (S)</b> Feng Anne Xie, et al	
	<b>FILING DATE</b> April 13, 2004	<b>GROUP</b> 1711

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub-class	Filing Date if Appropriate
	6,469,101	10/22/02	Nahmias et al	525	132	8/31/01
	6,127,488	10/3/00	Obrecht et al	525	333.3	1/12/98

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub-Class	Translation YES NO
	JP2002080642	03/19/02	Japan	C08L21	00	

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

Examiner Initial		
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED:	

Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.